

News Release

U of M Crookston Delegates Head to China for Future Collaboration on Educational Partnership

By Jingpeng Tang, Elizabeth Tollefson on Tuesday, May 15, 2007

CROOKSTON, Minn. (May 15, 2007) – Delegates from the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) are traveling to China to further collaborate between Zhejiang Economic and Trade Polytechnic (ZJETP) and the University. The purpose of the meeting is to benefit their existing relationship, which will help provide a possible future collaboration with the Zhejiang Forestry University (ZFU) in Zhejiang province, China. The delegates from UMC will visit ZJETP during their trip May 17 to June 6, 2007.

UMC faculty members Jingpeng Tang, Pamela Elf, David Crawford and Peter Border will continue to help ZJETP construct and teach educational courses based on their contract between UMC and ZJETP signed two years ago. These faculty members, along with Kevin Thompson, Kenneth Johnson, David DeMuth, Jr., John Loegering and Director of Communications Krista Lemos will be UMC's ambassadors and meet with ZFU to seek a possible future collaboration with UMC, similar to the partnership that UMC has with ZJETP. They will also aid in recruiting perspective new students, along with making arrangements to teach courses at ZFU.

UMC faculty and staff have worked with ZJETP to develop curriculum taught in China that will transfer to the University of Minnesota. ZJETP students will study for three years in China taking one UMC course per semester along with English proficiency classes and then transfer to UMC for three semesters to earn a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota, Crookston.

In August 2006, UMC staff traveled to ZJETP to support coursework development for UMC courses being taught at ZJETP. UMC established an international partnership with ZJETP in late 2005 to enhance opportunities for students to study and faculty to work collaboratively. Students begin their studies in China, completing coursework in the areas of agriculture business management and computer software engineering and information technology management, and travel to UMC to complete their bachelor's degrees.

In Chancellor Casey's trip with ZJETP in November 2006, his outlook for a new partnership in Zhejiang is promising. "We were interested in exploring opportunities in natural resources. They were more interested in business programs. The opportunity to internationalize our campus has tremendous potential, including faculty development, intellectual global exchange and study abroad opportunities for students."

To further academic studies while in China, the delegates will be visiting Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an, and Hangzhou for cultural tours plus explore new opportunities for UMC students to study abroad.

For more information, contact Assistant Professor Jingpeng Tang, Ph. D., 218-289-8182 (jptang@umn.edu).

The University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) delivers more than 25 applied-science undergraduate degree programs and 50 concentrations, including online degrees, in agriculture; arts, humanities and social sciences; business; math, science and technology; and natural resources. UMC is dedicated to helping students and the region aim higher, reach further and dream bigger dreams. To learn more, visit www.UMCrookston.edu.

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